

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

a1 1. (Currently amended) An instruction aid for training a user to perform a surgical technique, comprising: an interactive template accessible by a user; an animated demonstration of the surgical technique provided in the interactive template; a video recording demonstrating performance of the surgical technique on a patient, provided in the interactive template; and information relating to any surgical instruments necessary for performing the surgical procedure, provided in the interactive template, wherein the interactive template is stored on a storage medium accessed and operated locally by the user at a work station and further includes a link which opens a channel to a communication network to access a website of a company providing the interactive template to allow the user to access further information relating to the surgical technique.

2. (Original) The instruction aid according to claim 1, wherein the interactive template further includes access to published references relating to the surgical technique.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The instruction aid according to claim 1, wherein the ~~interactive template further includes a link provides access to an area of the company website containing an updated~~ schedule of training courses for the surgical technique.

5. (Original) The instruction aid according to claim 4, wherein the link to the ~~updated training~~ schedule enables a user to interactively register for ~~a one of the training courses with a training facility~~.

6. (New) The instruction aid according to claim 1, wherein the link provides access to an area of the company website containing information about the company providing the interactive template.

7. (New) The instruction aid according to claim 1, wherein the link provides access to an area of the company website containing information about the corporate locations of the company.

8. (New) The instruction aid according to claim 1, wherein the link provides access to an area of the company website containing information about at least one instruction center operated by the company.

9. (New) A method for training a user to perform a surgical technique, comprising:

a1 providing an interactive template on a storage medium;

accessing the storage medium locally at a workstation;

locally executing the interactive template from the storage medium at the workstation;

selecting a link in the interactive template;

opening a communication channel to an information network outside of the local workstation; and

accessing information from outside the local workstation through the communication channel.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein executing the template locally includes accessing at least one visual demonstration of the surgical procedure.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein accessing information from outside the local workstation includes registering for a training course offered at a location remote to the local workstation.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein accessing information outside the local workstation includes accessing a website of the company providing the interactive template.